United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1027
27 November 1991

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council urges Yugoslav parties to comply fully with agreement on immediate cease-fire, signed in Geneva, 23 November; will take up question of establishment of United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia upon recommendation from Secretary-General.

- Secretary-General concludes official visit to Spain.

- European Community admitted to Food and Agriculture Organization, becoming first regional economic integration organization to join specialized United Nation Agency.

- Special Political Committee concludes work for its current session by adopting a number of drafts.

* * *

The Security Council has urged the Yugoslav parties to comply fully with the agreement on an immediate cease-fire, which was signed in Geneva on 23 November. It further endorsed the statement made by Mr. Vance, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yugoslavia, in Geneva that the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation could not be envisaged without the full compliance by all parties with the cease-fire agreement.

The Council took that decision this afternoon by adopting unanimously resolution 721 (1991) saying that it would take appropriate action without delay upon the Secretary-General's recommendation for the establishment of a United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

The Council also expressed hope that the Secretary-General and Mr. Vance would pursue their contacts with the Yugoslav parties as soon as possible so that the Secretary-General could present early recommendations to the Council, including for a peace-keeping force.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council convened in response to requests by Germany and France for an urgent meeting on the situation in Yugoslavia, and to a letter from Yugoslavia, dated 26 November, asking for the establishment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that country.

The Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia, Darko Silovic, asked that the Council act promptly and take the necessary decision for the deployment of such a force as soon as possible. He said the Yugoslav Government highly appreciated the persevering efforts of Mr. Vance who, he said, had the full confidence and support of all parties. The Yugoslav Ambassador stated that the immediate return of Mr. Vance to Yugoslavia should enable the conclusion of consultations on the establishment of a peace-keeping operation -- one that was necessary for reaching a peaceful solution within the framework of the Hague Conference on Yugoslavia, chaired by Lord Carrington.

A United Nations spokesman announced earlier today that Mr. Vance had held talks this morning with senior Secretariat officials at Headquarters and that he was scheduled to return to Yugoslavia on Saturday, 30 November.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met this morning in Madrid with the President of the Popular Party, José Maria Aznar, with whom he discussed the current situation in Yugoslavia, Western Sahara, and the United Nations involvement in the region and Central America, in particular, El Salvador.

The Secretary-General then attended a ceremony for the presentation of a book edited by the Spanish Defence Ministry entitled "Peace-keeping Forces: Spanish Military Staff in the World", and made brief remarks on the significance of the Spanish contribution to various peace-keeping forces throughout the world. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar then left Madrid for Paris.

* * *

The European Economic Community (EEC) was today admitted to membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), becoming the first regional economic integration organization to join a United Nations specialized agency.

The EEC's membership became possible after the 160-nation Conference, in session since November 9, amended basic texts to allow membership in FAO by regional economic integration organizations. The Conference then agreed to take up the EEC's application during its current session, waiving a requirement that would have delayed the vote on membership until the next Conference in 1993.

"The accession of the EEC as a member of our organization is a momentous decision for FAO", Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General, told the Conference. He said FAO could offer EEC "its unique knowledge of the rural world", its ongoing examination of the food and nutritional situation, and its presence more or less everywhere in the world.

(more)

From now on, EEC will be entitled to participate in any FAO meeting,; its votes will equal the number of its member States; and, when EEC exercises its right to vote, EEC member States will not vote.

* * *

The General Assembly's Special Political Committee today concluded its work for the forty-sixth session.

The Committee was expected to take action on a number of draft resolutions. Among those were two draft texts submitted by the Committee on Information, as well as a draft decision by which the Assembly would expand that Committee from 78 to 79 members and appoint Burkina Faso as a new member.

The Committee was also to conclude its consideration of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and take action on seven drafts on that question.

* *** *